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March 13, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**APPROVAL TO AWARD A CERTIFIED NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
SERVICES AGREEMENT TO FIVE INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS (All Districts) (3 Votes)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Delegated authority to the Director of Public Health, or his authorized designee, to execute a certified needle exchange program services agreement with five contract providers, effective on the date of execution by the parties through approximately March 12, 2008, or a period of 12 months, whichever is greater, at a total net County cost of \$500,000, entirely offset by tobacco master settlement agreement monies, subject to review and approval by County Counsel and Chief Administrative Office.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The purpose of the action is to award a certified needle exchange program services agreement to the following contract providers: Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc. (AADAP), Bienestar Human Services, Inc. (Bienestar), Common Ground - The Westside HIV Community Center (Common Ground), Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc. (PHFE) representing Clean Needles Now (CNN), and Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. (TTC).

The risk of contracting HIV and other blood borne pathogens, such as Hepatitis B and C, presents a serious threat to IDUs residing in Los Angeles County. However, research shows that needle exchange programs (NEPs) are an effective method of intervention in preventing the spread of such bloodborne pathogens among IDUs and their sexual and needle sharing partners. NEPs provide IDUs and others, with a controlled access

to clean needles, which helps to prevent further transmission of blood borne pathogens. In addition, NEPs serve as an important venue for providing IDUs with information and referrals to other available medical and social services, including access to drug treatment services.

In approving the recommended action the Board is supporting the Department of Public Health's (DPH or Department) project to provide NEP services to IDUs residing within Los Angeles County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

Total cost for agreements with all five contract providers (consisting of \$37,500 for AADAP, \$229,881 for Bienestar, \$43,200 for Common Ground, \$50,000 for PHFE/CNN, and \$139,419 for TTC) is \$500,000, for the period effective on the date of execution by the parties through approximately March 12, 2008, or a period of 12 months, whichever is greater, which is entirely offset by tobacco master settlement agreement monies,

Funding is included in the FY 2006-07 Adopted Budget and will be requested in future fiscal years.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

On August 29, 2000, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the County's Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop a plan to review procedures and certify the operation of NEPs located in Los Angeles County. This action was taken in recognition of the public health crisis related to the transmission of HIV and hepatitis due to needle sharing among IDUs, and the considerable amount of published studies indicating the efficacy of needle exchange as an effective risk reduction intervention.

On August 2, 2005, the Board approved the use of \$500,000 in tobacco master settlement funds, as allowed for health related projects, to support the DHS' institution of a NEP certification process for a period of one year. As a result of this action, the DHS (or DPH, as the department was re-designated after its separation from DHS on July 6, 2006) began developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Certified Needle Exchange Program Services competitive selection document to select and certify NEP providers which could provide NEP services in any of the areas of Los Angeles County where the DPH determined NEP services currently did not exist or were inadequately provided. (Note that, although the City of Los Angeles has provided NEP services for a number of years within their city limits, data indicates there are a number of areas outside of the city limits that could benefit from such services.) Major areas identified by the DPH that this situation applies to are: the Antelope Valley (including

unincorporated areas), East Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, South Bay, and South Los Angeles.

NEP services will be provided through three different types of service sites: 1) a Storefront site (a fully dedicated site, providing services such as drug treatment referrals, harm reduction services, HIV counseling and testing, medical services [such as wound care] and social services referrals), 2) a Street-based site (a site operating in a specific street location, serving those IDUs reluctant to access a storefront site), and 3) a Clinic-based site (a site also providing storefront site services but from an existing clinic currently located in the community, under a memorandum of understanding [MOU], etc.). See Attachment A for further details of types of sites and locations services proposed to be provided by providers.

After a review of the NEP services to be provided under this action, the Department later plans to expand County NEP certification, to include other providers capable of providing NEP services, without County assistance (if possible), to other communities within Los Angeles County.

Attachment A provides additional information.

### CONTRACTING PROCESS

On September 5, 2006, the DPH released the RFP, which was limited to only those providers that had three or more years of experience as an NEP provider, and that were currently providing such NEP services to the City of Los Angeles' AIDS Coordinator's Office. The seven providers these qualifications applied to are: ADAP, Bienestar, Clean Needles Now (CNN), Common Ground, Homeless Healthcare (HHC), Minority AIDS Project (MAP) and TCC. In response five of the seven providers (AADAP, Bienestar, Common Ground, PHFE/CNN, and TTC) submitted proposals and were selected to provide certified needle exchange program services to the County.

Note that, the Department has written and produced the County of Los Angeles Policy and Procedures for Certified Needle Exchange Programs Manual, outlining the requirements a NEP provider must meet in order to become a certified NEP services provider (e.g., NEP providers are required to; 1) obtain local community and law enforcement approval to operate a NEP service site within the community) 2) distribute needles to only registered IDUs within contractor's programs and to maintain records on such distribution, 3) provide safe containers for needle disposal (i.e., clean needles are exchanged for use needles on one to one basis), 4) provide procedures for handling accidental needle sticks received by staff, etc.) which all providers under this action have met as part of their selection.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
March 13, 2007  
Page 4

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Provision of certified needle exchange program services will provide IDUs with a clean needle alternative to using used needles that may be unsafe or contaminated, which will help prevent the transmission HIV and other blood borne pathogens (e.g., Hepatitis B and C).

When approved, this Department requires three signed copies of the Board action.

Respectfully submitted,



*h* Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

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Attachments (2)

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT**

1. TYPE OF SERVICE:

Needle Exchange Program (NEP) Services provides clean needles to intravenous/ injection drug users (IDUs) to help prevent the transmission HIV and other blood borne pathogens (e.g., Hepatitis B and C).

2. AGENCY ADDRESS AND CONTACT PERSON:

- A. Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc. (AADAP)  
5318 South Crenshaw Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90043  
Attention: Mr. Mike Watanabe, MSW,  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer  
Telephone Number: (323) 293-6284  
Facsimile (FAX) Number: (323) 295-4075  
Electronic Mail (E-Mail) Address: [miwat@aadapinc.org](mailto:miwat@aadapinc.org)  
Type of site and location: One street based site located in the city of Compton (SPA 6)
- B. Bienestar Human Services, Inc. (Bienestar)  
5326 East Beverly Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90022  
Attention: Mr. Oscar De La O,  
Chief Executive Officer and President  
Telephone Number: (323) 727-7896, ext. 123  
FAX Number: (323) 727-7985  
E-Mail Address: [odelao@bienestar.org](mailto:odelao@bienestar.org)  
Type of site and location: One site located in SPA 3.
- C. Common Ground - The Westside HIV Community Center (Common Ground)  
2012 Lincoln Boulevard  
Santa Monica, California 90405  
Attention: Mr. Daniel Getzoff,  
Deputy Director  
Telephone Number: (310) 314-5480  
FAX Number: (310) 314-5487  
E-Mail Address: [dgetzoff@commongroundwestside.org](mailto:dgetzoff@commongroundwestside.org)  
Type of site and location: One clinic based site located in the city of Inglewood (SPA 8)
- D. Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc. (PHFE) (representing  
Clean Needles Now [CNN])  
13200 Crossroads Parkway North, Suite 135  
City of Industry, California 91746  
Attention: Mr. Ed Bunning,  
Contract Manager  
Telephone Number: (562) 699-7320, ext. 259

FAX Number: (562) 692-6950

E-Mail Address: [edbunning@phfe.org](mailto:edbunning@phfe.org)

Type of site and location: One street based site located in the city of Watts (SPA 6)

E. Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. (TCC)

18646 Oxnard Street

Tarzana, California 91356

Attention: Mr. Albert M. Senella,

Chief Operating Officer

Telephone Number: (818) 654-3815

FAX Number: (818) 996-3051

E-Mail Address: [asenella@tarzanatc.org](mailto:asenella@tarzanatc.org)

Type of site and location: One street based site in the San Fernando Valley (SPA 2), and up to two others to be determined.

3. TERM:

Effective on the date of execution by the parties through approximately March 12, 2008 or a period of 12 months whichever is greater.

4. FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total cost for agreements with all five contract providers (consisting of \$37,500 for AADAP, \$229,881 for Bienstar, \$43,200 for Common Ground, \$50,000 for PHFE/CNN, and \$139,419 for TTC) is \$500,000, for the period effective on the date of execution by the parties through approximately March 12, 2008 or a period of 12 months whichever is greater which is entirely offset by tobacco master settlement agreement monies. Funding is included in the FY 2006-07 Adopted Budget and will be requested in future fiscal years.

5. GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE SERVED:

SPAs 1, 3, 6, and 8.

6. ACCOUNTABLE FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

Anna Long, Chief of Staff

7. APPROVALS:

Public Health (PH): John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D., Acting Chief Deputy

Contract Administration PH: Gary T. Izumi, Chief

County Counsel (as to form): Robert E. Ragland, Senior Deputy County Counsel